

House Resolution 243

By: Representatives Sheldon of the 105th, Channell of the 116th, Houston of the 170th, Carter of the 175th, and Shaw of the 176th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 10, 2009, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 125 medically
4 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 256,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including over 75,000 Medicaid recipients and 118,000
6 uninsured, the working poor, a large number of underinsured, elderly, homeless, immigrants,
7 and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status, cultural or ethnic heritage,
8 or disease conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$42 million per year to Georgia
10 communities, recruit and retain excellent health care professionals where they are most
11 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and
12 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation
13 services, community outreach transportation, and support programs; and

14 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record spanning four decades of
15 controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency
16 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center
17 patients than patients of other providers; and

18 WHEREAS, community health centers save the Medicaid program up to 33 percent in annual
19 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

20 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,
21 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support
22 services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health
23 status of the community; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
25 Association for Primary Health Care, have worked diligently to increase the number of
26 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role
27 in establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health
28 care access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality
29 improvement, reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of
30 new health care initiatives such as Medicaid managed care and electronic health records, and
31 utilization of the latest technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to
32 more Georgians; and

33 WHEREAS, community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
34 contributions in expanding access to health care, their outstanding record of service, and their
35 dedication to improving health care and the health status of all Georgians.

36 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body recognize the foregoing by designating February 10, 2009, as
38 "Community Health Centers Day."

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for
41 Primary Health Care.